

As a US citizen and consumer I am deeply concerned about the "Restoring Internet Freedom" order.

This order would destroy net neutrality, which ensures that ISPs cannot privilege certain data over other data. Removing this protection would allow ISPs to slow down or limit access to sites and services they compete with, or with whom they do not have partnership agreements. They will charge consumers extra to use high-bandwidth services, or use subtle nudging to promote the services they would prefer us to use. This will be a huge boon to the companies that already have the largest marketshare at the expense of consumers, who will pay millions just to keep the services they already use. It will stifle the information economy and kill jobs.

The worst part is that consumer choice is premised on the idea that there are multiple ISPs to choose from in a given area. But that is a fiction. In many if not most areas of the country, only one viable ISP is available because the large companies choose to not directly compete with one another. Consumers will be forced to accept whatever additional costs their pre-determined ISP forces on them, because working online is not optional in 2017.

The "Restoring Internet Freedom" plan would only restore corporate interests' freedom to charge anything they want and limit consumers ability to access information and services as they choose. Please think very hard before enacting this terrible plan.

Thank you.

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